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### GOOD MORNING – Bobby Schuller (BS) and Hannah Schuller (HS)

BS: This is the day the Lord has made. We will rejoice and be glad in it. Good morning.

HS: And welcome, welcome to our visitors and to our church family. It feels so good to be with you. A reminder that what is impossible for mankind is possible for God and He is for you and He loves you.

BS: We're so glad you're here and we're hoping this is a service that changes your life.

Let's begin with a word of prayer. Father, we thank you so much for all your goodness and your friendship to us, that you never give up on us. Thank you that there is hope for every single person in this world to have a bigger future, a bigger life, a bigger education, a bigger idea, a bigger business or organization or ministry, a bigger family. Thank you all these things are available to us, in your kingdom, all things are possible, anything is possible and we ask for more faith in Jesus' name, amen.

HS: Amen.

HAVEN: Turn to the person next to you and say God loves you and so do I.

### SCRIPTURE – Matthäus 13,18-23 – Hannah Schuller

In preparation for the message, Matthew 13:18. "Listen then to what the parable of the sower means: When anyone hears the message about the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what was sown in their heart. This is the seed sown along the path. The seed falling on the rocky ground refers to someone who hears the word and at once receives it with joy. But since they have no root, they last only a short time. When trouble or persecution comes because of the word, they quickly fall away. The seed falling among the thorns refers to someone who hears the word, but the worries of this life and the deceitfulness of wealth choke the word, making it unfruitful. But the seed falling on good soil refers to someone who hears the word and understands it. This is the one who produces a crop, yielding a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown." Amen.

### INTERVIEW – Sarah Grandpre (SG) with Bobby Schuller (BS)

Sarah Grandpre is a singer and music director who has been a member of the Hour of Power Choir for the last 10 years. She has also been the director of Voices of Hope Children's Choir since its inception in 2015. This summer, Voices of Hope will take their first choir tour to Nashville, which has been a dream of theirs since the beginning.

BS: Sarah Grandpre! Hi!

SG: Hi Pastor Bobby.

BS: Great to see you.

SG: You as well.

BS: So we're great friends, we've known each other forever, but it's great for the world to get to you know. You've got a great life, a great story, and a great project – Voices of Hope, which has been a huge success and hit for this ministry. But let's begin there. Tell us a little bit about Voices of Hope and how it all started, and how you got here.

SG: Oh yes, of course, so 2015 I received a phone call from Don Neuen, who was the choir director at that time, and he said the ministry is launching a children's choir, and we think you'd be a great candidate. Would you come and interview. Give it a couple days, think about it. And so I gave it a little bit of time, but I just thought wow, that's so interesting. There are so many possibilities you could do.

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We have this beautiful music ministry, so I said okay, I'm just going to see what happens. And we started on this adventure that has been one of the most rewarding experiences of my whole life.

BS: That's awesome. The idea originally came from Susan Dawson..

SG: We love the Dawson's.

BS: ..who.. we had this back at the Crystal Cathedral, this huge choir program, and we thought what if it would be great to see the kids grow up even into our adult choir. And hopefully we'll see that someday, but what a success it is all by itself. And I made the Sarah Grandpre pick, by the way, even though Don made the phone call.

SG: Thank you, thank you so much.

BS: It was the right pick.

SG: It has been such a rewarding part of my life, so thank you so much.

BS: Of course. So one of the things that you think about when you think about Voices of Hope is you want it to be a sustainable community. What does that mean?

SG: So we wanted to create this safe space for the kids to come where they could just be themselves. A choir is such an excellent place for this to happen because everyone's part matters. The littlest ones to the oldest student in the group, their parts matter, like whatever part they're singing, and in choir, you get to make music with your body. You don't have to bring an instrument in, you just come as you are. We make music with our body. That is so cool. The kids love it. And so inside of that incredible community, you're able to foster relationships, and the student's bond together, and then they want to stay. So we have some students who started in choir when they were five or six years old, and they're going into high school now. We have students who went through the whole program. We started this whole choir with 12. And most of them stayed until they went to college. That's incredible. That is so beautiful, and they check back in and it's just a beautiful community that we've created.

BS: I've seen a lot of these kids, too, a lot of them are coming from homes, like it's interesting, because I've got kids, and we have all these programs that we sign up for, and they all have the same thing in common: they're expensive. Its \$200, its \$300 for them to go into this program. You got to buy all this stuff. Our program is free.

SG: It is.

BS: And a lot of these kids come from blue collar families. They come from lunch pail, hardworking families that maybe couldn't afford to send their kids to voice lessons or whatever. And so these kids who have this natural talent are developing these incredible gifts, and having these amazing experiences. Like I'll never forget AGT – America's Got Talent when they won the golden buzzer. Tell us that story.

SG: Unbelievable. Oh, it was unbelievable. We had decided that day, we loved the song we were doing, we all decided hey it's a fluke that we're even on this show at all. We're having a great time, let's just do the best we can do. And we were in this scene and I tried so hard to remember the exact memory, not the video, but what it felt like. We were surrounded by so much love and they opened their hearts up and they just sang with everything they had, and the energy in the room was just circular. You could feel it going, going, going, and it was incredible. That moment was incredible and then the golden buzzer was unbelievable totally unexpected.

BS: It's amazing. And so now you guys are going to the Fish Fest? That's kind of a cool story.

SG: Okay so Fish Fest is a festival that's put on by the Fish radio station. It's here in Irvine June 10th for anyone who wants to come. So for AGT all-stars, we sent in a bunch of videos for the producers to choose what they'd like us to do on the show, and they chose a song called Together. It is written by For King and Country, and we said wow, that's amazing. It's a faith-based song. Okay, let's do it. The first time we've been able to do a faith-based song on the show. Great, wonderful. We had such positive response from the fans of For King and Country. They posted it on their Facebook. I thought, okay, they're based in Nashville. We're looking at a Nashville tour. Maybe we go ahead and just reach out and see if they could meet with us, or workshop with us. So I reached out and they said well actually we're going to be in Irvine the week before. Okay, that's our backyard. So I just said hey do you want some kids to join you on stage? They're totally into it. We will be appearing with For King and Country at Fish Fest at the Irvine Amphitheater on June 10th.

BS: Hey! Awesome. Great.

SG: So good.

BS: And speaking of that, you guys are on your way to Nashville here pretty soon. What's going on in Nashville?

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SG: So Nashville, we've always had in our mission statement that we want to tour. And we had some hard years, and we're in a great place now where we've raised great money, and we really want to take the kids on tour and have that experience as a choir tour, so we're heading to Nashville June 19 through June 23rd. We have a concert there, we have an outreach situation there, we are going to this beautiful recording studio; we're recording one of our songs Rescue by Lauren Daigle that we did here on the program. Doing this educational thing for the kids, but also its just such a good bonding experience for them, and the end goal is really to travel to some of our international ministries.

BS: That's awesome.

SG: So we're just going to get our feet wet with this one and see how it goes.

BS: How can we get to know more about Voices of Hope?

SG: Follow us on Instagram or Facebook. So on Instagram its Voices of Hope CC, and Voices of Hope Children's Choir on Facebook. We'll post up all of our updates, and of course the church will be sharing a lot of those updates, as well.

BS: Sarah Grandpre, thank you so much.

SG: Thank you, Bobby.

BS: And thanks for all you do for Voices of Hope. We love you and appreciate you so much.

SG: I love this ministry and I'm so, so proud to be part of it.

BS: Awesome. Thank you again.

SG: Thank you.

### DECLARATION – Bobby Schuller

All right, no matter who you are, would you stand with us? We're going to say this creed together. Hold your hands out like this as a way of receiving from the Lord: I'm not what I do. I'm not what I have. I'm not what people say about me. I am the beloved of God. Its who I am. No one can take it from me. I don't have to worry, I don't have to hurry, I can trust my friend Jesus and share His love with my neighbor. Thanks, you can be seated.

### MESSAGE – Stay Faithful to the Sowing

I want to encourage you today to make a decision to live at peace with God. Many people don't have a problem with God, they don't have a problem with whatever religion or even with Christianity. They think fondly when they think about Jesus or the Bible, but it's not really something that's personal. I want it to be personal for you today. God lays before us two paths, one that leads to life and one that leads to death. Choose life. And that happens when we're at peace with God. We've all done things in our lives that we regret. We've all said things, we've done things, we've experienced things that we wish we could erase from our minds, but when we give all of those things to the Lord, He can transform them into godliness, power, beauty and that's the promise to you. I want to encourage you to trust your life to Jesus Christ, and you'll never be the same again. Believe that He died on the cross for you. Believe that He rose again and invite the Holy Spirit into your heart and you'll never be the same. You can do that simply just by being in your chair and just saying I will follow you, Jesus, and your life will never be the same. Will you do that now? If you do that now, I want you to text me the word HOPE to the number on the screen. People say why text the number? Why text the word? I just want to celebrate with you. That's really the truth. The Bible says when somebody comes home to God, that all of heaven rejoices. That there's this huge celebration and I want to celebrate with the angels, with the saints when they see that you've made a decision to change your life. Here's a promise: if you commit your life to Jesus, everything in your life will be different. Here's another thing: everything will be different when you change. Now the first thing that happens when you give your life to the Lord, something inside is different. You have a new way, a new path, a new compass, but you still have the same toxic friends and toxic family members. You still have all the same bad habits. You still have all the same types of media you like to consume. You have all the same fears, all the same baggage, all the same things you're wrestling with, and now there's this new path, and that path is discipleship. And that is becoming a student of the one who saved you, learning what it means to have a fruitful life-giving community; what it means to have positive fruitful thoughts; what it means to take practical steps every day to improve your life. And this is why we gather here today. Now I believe almost all of you, you're on that path. That's why you're here. Not a lot of people like to come to church on Sunday. There are so many other things you can do. You can go golfing. You can go see a movie. You can sleep in and eat cereal. You can watch Netflix.

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I mean there's so many things, but today you decided to be here in this church, or to watch on television, and I think that commitment is exactly the type of thing that we need to be doing. Today we're going to talk about the importance and the power to build a future by becoming a farmer. Not a real farmer; well maybe for some of you. But the type of person who sees your future based on the kinds of seeds you're planting in the ground today. Story goes like this. Great teacher, Jesus, rabbi, has this massive following. Maybe its hundreds, maybe its thousands, for whatever reason, there's so many people that He can't get away from them far enough to speak. And He's about to give them this amazing revelation, and almost all of them are going to miss it. Don't miss it today. Jesus gets in the boat and He goes away from the shore, and so it creates this sort of cool ancient amphitheater type thing so way up, they can still hear Him. And He begins to speak. And He tells this bizarre parable. He says there once was a farmer who went out to his field, and he just started taking handfuls of seed and just started chucking them out into the field as he was passing by. Most of them were agrarian people, they know what this looks like, so you see a guy, he's just whoosh, whoosh, like this. And He says some landed on the road and the birds came and they ate it up. Some landed on like some rocks and soil in the ground, and those spring up quickly, but then in the sun came, they all withered and died. Another one, it grew up on some good ground, but weeds grew up with it and it kind of choked it out. But then finally another grew and it bore a great harvest – 30, 60, 100-fold. And then He - end of sermon, that's it. And everybody scratches their head and says what was that about? Now if you've gone to church for a while you've no doubt heard this parable. I preach on it at least once or twice a year. But it might be the most important parable in the Bible, at least it's one of the most important ones. His disciples are also confused, and they go rabbi, what on earth was that weird thing with the seeds and the birds and why do you hide things like that? Why do you tell them in weird stories like that? What does that even mean? And here's what Jesus says. He says the seeds are the word of the Lord. Let's pause there for a minute. The seed He's talking about are words! Words. The word of God. Words! Words of promise. Words of hope. Words of fresh vision. Words of understanding or wisdom. Words of experience. Words that are ideas, inventions. They're words! And when they're thrown out into the world, some make it and some don't. Some bear a harvest, and some fly away. What's the difference? It's interesting to think about words. And here's what it is. It's the words that grow are the ones upon which we take action on over a long period of time. Think about all that we experience as the result of some word in someone's heart or mind, some word they read, some word they wrote down on a cocktail napkin. John Harvard in 1630-something decided that there needed to be a seminary in the new world so that the pastors were not illiterate. And he had this crazy idea back then – what if we brought the first printing press to the new world. He donated all of his money, it was something like seven hundred pounds, and his whole library, and this little seminary was begun called Harvard. And then he died at the age of 30, having no idea what would happen to his namesake – Harvard University. A little idea still having a huge impact today, maybe the most important academic community in the world. When I go to the Netherlands, one of my favorite countries, I'm always blown away by the infrastructure for bicycles. I love bicycles and I love riding my bike in Holland, and they always have these little special lanes, and lights, and it goes parallel with the roads, and they go through gardens and by the rivers, and its beautiful and amazing, you can get anywhere on a bike, and everybody rides a bike in Holland. And I always think somebody thought this up. Somebody planned this amazing thing, and if that guy or gal had not taken those words and put them into action, it would be like every other car society in the world. But it's not. It's the Netherlands. I often think to myself man I would love.. I've watched on my YouTube history hours and hours and hours on the Dutch infrastructure for bicycles, and one of my ideas was like to bring it to Orange County. I would love to have that here! But guess what – I don't have the time; I don't have the will. So what happens to those words? They go in a silo. They're in a silo. They're in a special place that maybe one day when my kids move out of the house, or something happens and I have room for a new project, maybe I'll do that. But guess what – it's probably not going to happen. Why? It's in the silo. It's not in the ground. I'm not taking action on it. I have other seeds that the Lord has asked me to put in the ground. Okay, so think about it this way – when you put your seeds, these ideas, these words, these visions, when you put them in the ground, they become more than seeds. More than seeds. They become healing. They become breakthrough. They become great movements. They can become families. They can become scientific breakthroughs. They can become novels or paintings or buildings if you're willing to, over a long enough period of time, consistently sow the seed into the ground and tend to whatever comes up from the earth. So take action. Be planting.

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One of the greatest dangers in life, especially for you who may have been a success in life. Maybe you've got a lot of money. Maybe you've achieved a lot in your business or maybe your ministry is large and it's easy to look and say I've got a grand big silo but I've got nothing in the ground. Danger. Danger. There's a story that goes like this: says a man has this great harvest, and it's so big that he fills up his silo and he decides now that I have all this wealth, I'm going to eat, drink and be merry, and the Lord says this day you shall die. Woah. That doesn't sound like a Bobby sermon. You know why. You know why. Because every single one of us was born to do meaningful, good work. Maybe the work you're doing is bad work. Maybe the stuff you're doing isn't fulfilling. Find the work that makes the difference. It is so much better to take some of the grain that's in the silo and put it in the ground and know that you have a great future. Here's another way to say it: the greatest indicator of your future is not what's in the silo, but what's in the ground. Maybe you have the opposite problem. You're like I have zero in the silo. It is empty. I've made some bad decisions, I had a bad harvest, I had a bad break, I had a horrible lawsuit, I had a terrible divorce, some sickness, some illness, there's nothing in the silo, but there's something in the ground. I say to you good things are coming. If you got nothing in the silo, but you got seeds in the ground, your future is looking good. If you got a silo packed to the brim, but nothing in the ground, your future's not looking very good. Put seed in the ground. Tend to it. Care for it and everything will change. Isn't that amazing? You may not have a great present, but if you put seed in the ground, you got a great future. That's a promise from the word of God. Let it be true. Good seed means a good future. A good harvest is coming your way. Here's what the man said, Jim Rohn, great way of saying is either you plant in the spring or you beg in the fall. Let the future draw you and pull you. Don't be dug in by the past and your past mistakes and failures, just learn from them and begin preparing for a future that is bright and awesome. He said it this way – the soil does not respond to your need. If you go to the soil, you go out to the farm and you look at this empty plot of dirt and you say I need, I need, I need, I need, nothing will happen. Here's what the soil will say to you – don't give me your need, give me your (AUDIENCE RESPONDS - seed) see it even rhymes. That's what Oral Roberts said – you have a need, you plant a seed. Now seeds don't become what you want them to become right away, it takes some time. Takes about six months. It takes some work. It takes water, it takes sunshine, it takes effort, it takes care, it takes consistency, but it's absolutely the tortoise, not the hare. It's absolutely the daily little things that make all the difference. Put the seed in the ground and care for it. Put those words of promise, those words of hope, those visions, those ideas, that understanding, put it in the ground and your future is going to be so bright, so amazing. Jesus then tells us that there's four types of fields. Here's the first one – it's the road. As those seeds being thrown out, it's falling haphazardly and the first one, first bit of seed, it falls on the road and what happens to it? He says this – it is the hardened heart. Maybe it's a person who's been walked on and so they got hard. Maybe it's someone who's been coddled their whole life, and so they can't do anything. Maybe it's someone who's been betrayed. But whatever reason, when the seed falls on that ground, the birds come and they eat it up. And you just have to say to yourself, the birds got it. Listen, my friend, maybe you say to yourself I tried to bring my friend who's been seeking. I tried to bring him to church, but then he didn't show up. The birds got it. You see. You say I wanted to bring my friend to the AA meeting. He said he wanted to sober up. I was going to pick him up but he wasn't there. The birds got it, you see. Maybe you're starting a business with a friend and you're supposed to go to a conference to learn how to do this trade skill, or maybe you got your good friend a job at your business, you put yourself on the line and he didn't show up. Or you helped somebody find an apartment and they didn't sign up. Whatever. And you just so.. they shouldn't, they shouldn't, they shouldn't. My friend, let me just tell you, the birds got it. Here's a hard thing to learn in life for good people. Here's a hard thing. You can't change people. You can try and help them when they reach out to you, and you should, you can give them a helping hand, and you should but at the end of the day, here's who can change that person – that person. The only person who can change you is you. When you change, everything changes. But when you decide not to change, nothing will change for you. It's easy to complain about this or about that, but when you change, that's when the difference happens. So here's what you can do for the person who's a road for the birds keep coming - you can pray for them. Pray that the Lord would soften their heart. Pray that the Lord would begin to make them tender. Pray that the Lord would motivate them and get them up in the morning. And watch over time that might make the difference. God can change anyone. God can turn anyone around. When you walk around the church enough, you see so many stories of broken-hearted people, messed up people, drug addicted people, people who had the worst past, the worst upbringing, the worst tragedy and God turned it all around.

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He turned it all around and He can do that for your friend, He can do it for you. But for now, sometimes you just got to say the birds got it. You can go chasing birds your whole life, but I wouldn't recommend it. You can say they shouldn't, he shouldn't, she shouldn't. I wouldn't recommend it. The birds got it. The second type of field, Jesus says, is a rocky soil. Seed falls on this rocky soil and it says this is the person who with joy they spring up; they get into action. They're going to do the thing. They're super excited about it, but then trouble or persecution comes, and the King James says, and they get offended. They get offended. And then it's all over. Isn't that interesting? It's not that they get destroyed, it's not that they get ruined, it's not that their body is broken, it's that they get offended. Doesn't it feel like today that.. I mean I know nobody gets offended anymore today, and that's nice. Finally, we've overcome. It feels today whether you're in the right, the left or the center, everyone seems to think offense is a virtue. That pride is a virtue. It's amazing, I remember I went to high school, we loved to use this term "tiger pride" because Broken Arrow Tigers are my high school. Or we'd talk about American pride. And I understand the sentiment. I understand what it means to be proud of your school or proud of your country, but I think it might fit better to use a different word. Don't forget, pride is one of the seven deadly sins. It means that when you commit this act that it causes a cascading effect of other sins, troubles, and self-destructive behaviors that cascade through your life. Pride says I'm offended. That's not right! It fights back. But let's trade pride for self-respect. Let's trade pride for self-esteem. You know what self-esteem and self-respect says when its offended? It says I don't have time for this. It just moves on. Pride tosses and turns all night in bed thinking about what I could have said and wants to post online, and wants to write an article. Here's what self-respect does – it just goes to bed. It just sleeps well. So, some people when you invite them to be a part of your faith or your movement or your business or your art or your project, some people will at first get excited and then trouble will come and they'll just get offended. And they'll disappear and you just let it go. You let it go, my friend. The third type of field that Jesus says is then there's this group, and this something that all of us in here will struggle with; this is something I struggle with every day, and this is the field that the seed begins to spring up and it gets big and it gets green and it starts to look awesome, but then weeds grow up with it and it begins to choke it. And it says this: it doesn't say that the plant dies, actually. Isn't that interesting? It doesn't die, it stays green. It stays big but it will never bear fruit. What an image for so many western Christians today. We look good, everything's green, any day we're going to bear some fruit now, but it just never comes around. Why? Because of riches and worries. Worried about this, worried about that, busy with this, busy with that, constantly stressed, constantly worried, and never focusing on what really matters. The story Jesus says that He was walking through a field and He sees this fig tree. Now fig trees are interesting because from far away, they have these leaves that have these curvatures on them, so it looks like there's figs in the tree, and its deceiving. And you can't really tell whether a fig tree has figs or not until you get pretty close. Jesus gets close, He's hungry for figs. It's the candy of the Middle East. No candy. No figs. And He curses the tree. Let it not be of us that from far away we look like we're fruitful. From far away we look green and great. From far away we look super, but we'll never bear fruit because we're choked out by worries and by riches and by all manner of distraction. That's what the weeds do in our life. When my grandparents lived with us, my grandma and grandpa Pursley lived with us for a number of years in Oklahoma. We had this field in our backyard and it was all clay, red clay Oklahoma. Not great for growing gardens. And so my grandpa decided to grow a garden in our backyard. And so he put up these sort of two by fours, little hedge, started to fill it up with some top soil. And then he just would not let us throw away any coffee grounds or eggs or anything like that, was constantly making this mulch and putting it out there, and over time, this soil got really, really good. It was good soil. And he grew all sorts of vegetables. Beautiful tomatoes and all sorts of things out there – jalapenos, it was great. And then one day they got their own place, they moved out and there was no more gardener. Guess how long it was until that little box, that box, that garden, went from vegetables to weeds. Was it months, was it years, was it weeks? Maybe it was days. And here's the point: the better the soil, the better weeds grow. The better the soil, the quicker, faster and easier weeds grow. So what do we do? You have to tend to your garden. Not every month, every day. You pull those weeds up. You pull those weeds up. You stop pulling them up, and it becomes overgrown. You got things in your life that you need to get rid of? Get rid of them before they get big. Focus on what matters. Focus on bearing fruit. And that's the point of the whole thing, isn't it. That when the words are tended to, when the words are planted, when they're cared for, you can expect a 30/60/100-fold return. Jim Case helped me realize this. Said you know what happens if you fold a sheet of paper 45 times, right? I said what?

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The length of the paper goes from here to the moon. If you fold a sheet of paper a hundred and four times, guess what happens. The sheet of paper goes the width of the whole universe. What's the point? The point is this: there's no limit, no limit to what can happen. One little printing press that John Harvard does creates Harvard University. You think he pictured that? Definitely not. But that's what happens when you begin to take action on a dream. It grows and grows and grows and grows. Here in California, we're experiencing this thing called a super bloom. Jesus says anybody who has a faith of a mustard seed, the smallest seed in the garden will turn to this giant thing. Hannah and I were on a hike the other day walking through this field. Look at these mustard seeds just growing over Hannah. Amazing. Just a random field, beautiful, coming along. And as you look over the fields, you can see all the purples and the reds and the yellows, and its beautiful. But you know what one of the biggest indicators of a super bloom is? You're not going to believe it. Its fire. When there's a lot of fire, when there's a lot of burning, guess what happens to the soil? It gets better. People lose their homes, but what happens to the soil? It gets better. Maybe you just went through a tough time. Maybe you just lost everything. Maybe you just went bankrupt, but maybe this is going to make the soil just the way it needs to be for a super bloom. Hannah and I are believing that for us this year spiritually. We believe that the Lord's given us a promise that this would be a year for a super bloom. And I hope it is for you, too. That the seeds that you plant, even if your past has been hard, even if you've been violated, betrayed, gossiped about, lied to, stolen from, sued. Whatever has happened to you, let it be the past, let it not be your future. It's about where you're going, not where you've been. Where you're going is based on how many seeds are in the ground. How many seeds are in the ground? Will you commit yourself to that seed? Will you devote yourself to it? Will you pull the seeds up? Will you water it? Will you care for it? Will you love it? Will you look at it? Will you sing to your plants? If you do, you will get a great harvest. A great harvest. That's a promise. It's coming to you. There's no limit if you keep on sowing. Here's something that happens sometimes. The Bible tells us sometimes the enemy, your competitor, will come and will put weeds amongst your soil. You have these beautiful corn rows growing, and all of a sudden these weeds get planted with them. Beautiful tomatoes, and all of a sudden some enemy purposefully comes and plants a bunch of weeds among them. Mark Tilbury talks about how he had this RC business that he was going to start, and he went to his best friend, he was an entrepreneur, and he told this whole business plan to him, and guess what his friend did. He betrayed him and started the business himself. And instead of stewing about it and getting upset about it, he started the same one side by side, and because he was passionate about it, because he loved it, because he knew the industry, he outgrew his friend and ended up buying his enemy, frenemy later. Bought him out. See, just keep sowing. Just keep sowing. Somebody at work took credit for a project you were working on and planting weeds, right? They're taking credit for all that hard work you did. Just keep sowing. Everybody shows their true colors eventually. Somebody else will see that he's a thief. Somebody else will see that you're a producer, if you keep producing. Maybe you went through a church split, or maybe some horrible thing happened to your organization or your business or whatever it is, just keep sowing. Keep sowing. It's not what's in the silo, its what's in the ground. Sometimes a storm comes and wipes everything out. Sometimes a fire comes and burns everything to the ground. Just keep sowing. Just keep sowing. I've heard this story a hundred different ways, but my great grandpa's.. I forget who it was. My grandpa's dad, I think, the Schuller family, they had a farm in Iowa, tornado comes and destroys everything. And they went out to that field and they took every nail, every piece of lumber that was salvageable, every bit of roof tile, and they rebuilt everything. That's what farmers do. Farmers don't waste anything. They don't waste any time. They don't stand around saying woe is me. They don't look at a field and say I need, I need, I need. They get back to planting their seed. And isn't it amazing when you're almost to the finish line how the worst things can often happen. Maybe this happened to you. Story in the Odyssey, Odysseus is on his way home, almost to Ithaca, it says he can see the home fires burning, people cooking, people celebrating. The god Aeolus took all the ill winds in the world and left only the western winds so that Odysseus and his crew would have a great time sailing home. And they're almost there, and so Odysseus now feeling relaxed because he knows he's home; he can see the harbor, just leans back and takes a little nap in the sun. And as his back is turned, his colleagues, thinking in the bag there's some sort of treasure, they open it up and out comes all the bad winds of the world and Odysseus is blown all the way back to where he started. And then they have to row because all of the bad winds are out again. Just keep rowing. Just keep swimming. Just keep sowing. See here's the thing: when you keep sowing, you will eventually outpace everyone else and anything else that would destroy you.

## Stay Faithful to the Sowing

If you keep sowing, keep sowing, keep sowing. It'll work out for you. Sow into people, too. Don't forget that people are soil, as well. Maybe you're a leader, a boss, a pastor, a teacher and you've got a group of people that follow you. And you've realized that you've messed up, you made a mistake, you did something wrong and you need to make it right. And you go back and you had your meeting, you had one meeting, and they didn't respond well, and you go I tried! No, no, no, you plant the seed, you plant the seed, you plant the seed, and you keep working on it. It takes about six months for seed to grow. You know that your marriage is messed up and you're trying to fix things, and you had a talk with your husband or your wife, and it just didn't go well, you say I tried. No, no my friend. Maybe with your kids – I tried. Maybe with your parents – I tried. Your colleague at work – I tried. You had the talk, I reached out, bit my hand. Just keep sowing. Just keep sowing and let the seed do its work. It's the seed that does the real work. Just remember. And finally, of all the people you should sow in, there are many, here's the one you should sow in the most – you know what I'm going to say, right? Sow into yourself every day. Think about all the opportunity to sow in yourself that gets wasted. Little TV is good, a little bit of Instagram or TikTok is fine, but when you miss out on a whole hour or two hours where you could have been working on the painting, working on the book, working on the song, reading the thing, calling the person, writing the letter, taking the online class, you just do these little things every day. You are doing like way more than 99% of everyone else. And yet still, most people won't do it. If you sow into yourself every day, just a little bit every day, you'll be astonished at where you are a year from now, five years from now. How much better your relationships are. How much better your job is. How much better your faith is. How much better your everyday is, if you keep sowing in you. Keep sowing, keep sowing, keep sowing. Remember it's not what's in the silo, it's not what's in the silo. The greatest indicator of your future is not what's in the silo, it's what is in the ground. Father, we thank you and we're grateful for all that you've done for us. Thank you that you've given us the seed and the soil and the sun and water. We will do our best with what we have and we love you. It's in Jesus' name we pray, all God's people said, amen.